

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ARA-16 NEA-10 IO-14 DRC-01 /145 W

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R 021530Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7697

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION NATO BRUSSELS 405

US MISSION USEC BRUSSELS 759

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 12

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJ: FRANCO'S TRADITIONAL END-OF-YEAR MESSAGE TO SPANISH  
PEOPLE

REF: MADRID 7714

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN TELEVISED ANNUAL END-OF-YEAR  
MESSAGE DECEMBER 30 FRANCO PRAISED SPANISH PEOPLE FOR  
MATURITY, CONFIDENCE, AND UNITY IN REACTING TO TRAGEDY  
OF RECENT ASSASSINATION OF PRIME MINISTER. HE ASCRIBED  
VIOLENCE TO SMALL MINORITY WITHOUT ANY POPULAR BASE AND  
REASSURED POPULATION THAT JUSTICE AND PUBLIC ORDER WOULD  
BE MAINTAINED. HE HAD PARTICULAR PRAISE FOR PRINCE AND  
ARMED FORCES BUT OMITTED ANY MENTION OF CHURCH. IN FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS FRANCO MENTIONED GOOD RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL, LATIN  
AMERICA, AND ARAB COUNTRIES BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO SPAIN'S  
RELATIONS WITH WEST EUROPE OR US. END SUMMARY.

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2. FRANCO DELIVERED HIS CUSTOMARY YEAR-END SPEECH EVENING

DECEMBER 30 ON TV AND RADIO. COMPARED TO PREVIOUS SUCH MESSAGES, THIS ONE WAS VERY BRIEF, LASTING ONLY ABOUT 10 MINUTES. MOST OF IT WAS DEVOTED TO EMPHASIZING NATIONAL UNITY AND SOUNDNESS OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONS. ONLY A FEW PARAGRAPHS DEALT WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. FRANCO REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO SPANISH PEOPLE FOR THEIR "CONFIDENCE" DURING TRYING PERIOD FOLLOWING CARRERO BLANCO'S ASSASSINATION. LAUDING POPULATION'S CALMNESS AND MATURITY IN ADVERSITY, HE GAVE REASSURANCE THAT STATE WOULD ADMINISTER JUSTICE AND PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC ORDER. KEY TO SPAIN'S SUCCESS IN NATIONAL REBIRTH, HE SAID, WAS COUNTRY'S UNITY, WHICH DID NOT MEAN UNIFORMITY. CARRERO BLANCO'S ASSASSINATION WAS A COWARDLY AGGRESSION AGAINST SPANISH SOCIETY BY A "SMALL MINORITY AIDED FROM ABROAD". (COMMENT: THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY A VEILED REFERENCE TO SPANISH RESENTMENT AT REPORTS OF FRENCH INDIFFERENCE TO ACTIVITIES OF BASQUE TERRORISTS IN FRANCE.)

4. FRANCO MENTIONED VITALITY OF FUNDAMENTAL LAWS AND SPANISH INSTITUTIONS, WHICH HE SAID FUNCTIONED SMOOTHLY DURING RECENT EVENTS AND HE NOTED THAT CALMNESS AND DESIRE FOR ORDER BY SPANISH PEOPLE OBIATED NEED FOR RECOURSE TO EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES. AFTER QUOTING SPANISH PROVERB ABOUT MAKING THE BEST OF AN ADVERSE SITUATION, FRANCO SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN SPAIN'S POLITICAL STRUCTURES BY CHANNELING DESIRES OF DESERVING SPANIARDS WITHIN NATIONAL MOVEMENT. (COMMENT: THIS WAS AS CLOSE AS FRANCO GOT TO ANY REFERENCE TO WIDER DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.)

5. TURNING TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FRANCO NOTED THAT NATIONS HAD BECOME INTERDEPENDENT AND THAT SPAIN'S MAIN GOAL WAS PEACE. HE THEN MENTIONED PROGRESS IN RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA, SPAIN'S CLOSE TIES WITH PORTUGAL, AND IMPORTANCE OF SPAIN'S TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH ARAB COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY DURING CURRENT ENERGY CRISIS.

6. FRANCO PRAISED PRINCE JUAN CARLOS FOR HIS "DISCRETION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PRUDENCE" DURING RECENT EVENTS AND ARMED FORCES FOR PROVIDING "SOLID PILLAR OF UNITY AND INDEPENDENCE."

7. AT CONCLUSION, FRANCO REFERRED TO HIS THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS AS HEAD OF STATE AND REITERATED HIS DEDICATION TO THE SERVICE OF SPAIN.

8. FULL TEXT OF SPEECH BY AIRGRAM.

9. COMMENT: FRANCO WAS SEATED DURING DELIVERY OF SPEECH, WHICH WAS PRE-TAPED, AND HE LOOKED VERY MUCH HIS AGE. HIS VOICE WAS WEAK AND HIS ARTICULATION INDISTINCT. HE HAS CONVEYED SIMILAR IMPRESSION IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THOUGH THIS YEAR HIS DECLINING VIGOR WAS MORE EVIDENT. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT HE MADE NO MENTION OF CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS, APPARENTLY PREFERRING NOT TO CALL ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS IN THIS SECTOR. NOR DID HE MAKE ANY REFERENCE TO SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH WEST EUROPE OR THE U.S. LAST TIME U.S. WAS MENTIONED IN FRANCO'S YEAR-END MESSAGES WAS IN 1970. OMISSION MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY INCREASING EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH U.S. IS WEIGHTED TO PROVIDE GREATEST BENEFITS TO US WHILE INCREASING RISKS AND MINIMIZING BENEFITS TO SPAIN.  
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